

Fitch upgrades
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Higher cancer rates found in military pilots, ground crews

By TARA COPP
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Pentagon study has found high rates of cancer among military pilots and for the first time has shown that ground crews who fuel, maintain and launch those aircraft are also getting sick. The data had long been sought by retired military aviators who have raised alarms for years about the number of air and ground crew members they knew who had cancer. They were told that earlier military studies had found they were not at greater risk than the general U.S. population.

In its yearlong study of almost 900,000 service members who flew on or worked on military aircraft between 1992 and 2017, the Pentagon found that air crew members had an 87% higher rate of melanoma and a 39% higher rate of thyroid cancer, while men had a 16% higher rate of prostate cancer and women a 16% higher rate of breast cancer. Overall, the air crews had a 24% higher rate of cancer of all types.

Continued on Page 2



This image provided by Betty Seaman shows Navy A-6 Intruder pilot Jim Seaman. Navy Capt. Jim Seaman died of lung cancer at the age of 61. His widow Betty Seaman has been part of a large group of aviators and their surviving spouses who have lobbied Congress and the Pentagon for years to look into the number of cancers aviators and ground crew face.

Associated Press

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Higher cancer rates found in military pilots, ground crews

Continued from Front

The study showed ground crews had a 19% higher rate of brain and nervous system cancers, a 15% higher rate of thyroid cancer and a 9% higher rate of kidney or renal cancers, while women had a 7% higher rate of breast cancer. The overall rate for cancers of all types was 3% higher.

There was some good news reported as well. Both ground and air crews had far lower rates of lung cancer, and air crews also had lower rates of bladder and colon cancers.

The data compared the service members with the general U.S. population after adjusting for age, sex and race.

The Pentagon said the new study was one of the largest and most comprehensive to date. An earlier study had looked at just Air Force pilots and had found some higher rates of cancer, while this one looked across all services and at both air and ground crews. Even with the wider approach, the Pentagon cautioned that the actual number of cancer cases was likely to be even higher because of gaps in the data, which it said it would work to remedy.

The study "proves that it's well past time for leaders and policy makers to move from skepticism to belief and active assistance," said retired Air Force Col. Vince Alcazar, a member of the Red River Valley

Fighter Pilots Association, which had lobbied the Pentagon and Congress for help. Alcazar serves on the association's medical issues committee.

The study was required by Congress in the 2021 defense bill. Now, because higher rates were found, the Pentagon must conduct an even bigger review to try to understand why the crews are getting sick.

Isolating potential causes is difficult, and the Pentagon was careful to note that this study "does not imply that military service in air crew or ground crew occupations causes cancer, because there are multiple potential confounding factors that could not be controlled for in this analy-

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This image provided by Betty Seaman shows Navy A-6 Intruder pilot Jim Seaman. Navy Capt. Jim Seaman died of lung cancer at the age of 61.

Associated Press

sis," such as family histories, smoking or alcohol use. But aviation crews have long asked for the Pentagon to look closely at some of the environmental factors they are exposed to, such as jet fuels and solvents used to clean and maintain jet parts, sensors and their power sources in aircraft nose cones, and the massive radar systems on the decks of the ships they land on.

When Navy Capt. Jim Seaman would come home from a deployment aboard an aircraft carrier, his gear would reek of jet fuel, his widow Betty Seaman said. The A-6 Intruder pilot died in 2018 at age 61 of lung cancer.

Betty Seaman still has his gear stored and it still smells of fuel, "which I love," she said.

She and others wonder if there's a link. She said crews would talk about how even the ship's water systems would smell of fuel. She said she and others have mixed feelings about

finally seeing in data what they have suspected for years about the aviation cancers. But "it has the potential to do a lot of good as far as early communication, early detection," she said.

The study found that when crew members were diagnosed with cancer, they were more likely to survive than members of the general population, which the study suggested was because they were diagnosed earlier due to regular required medical checkups and were more likely to be in better health because of their military fitness requirements.

The Pentagon acknowledged that the study had gaps that likely led to an undercount of cancer cases.

The military health system database used in the study did not have reliable cancer data until 1990, so it may not have included pilots who flew early-generation jets in the prior decades. □

Biden calls Israel's Netanyahu with judicial plan 'concern'

By AAMER MADHANI and ZEKE MILLER

Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) —

President Joe Biden spoke Sunday with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to express "concern" over his government's planned overhaul of the country's judicial system that has sparked widespread protests across Israel and to encourage compromise.

The White House said Biden reiterated U.S. concerns about the measure to roll back the judiciary's insulation from the country's political system, in a call a senior administration official described as "candid and constructive." There was no immediate indication that Netanyahu was shying away from the action, after rejecting a compromise last week offered by the country's figurehead president.

The official, who requested anonymity to discuss the leaders' private call, said that Biden spoke to Netanyahu "as a friend of Israel in the hopes that there can be a compromise formula found."

The White House in statement added that Biden "underscored his belief that democratic values have always been, and must remain, a hallmark of the U.S.-Israel relationship, that democratic societies are strengthened by genuine checks and balances, and



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, left, and Vice President Joe Biden talk prior to a meeting on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Jan. 21, 2016.

Associated Press

that fundamental changes should be pursued with the broadest possible base of popular support."

"The President offered support for efforts underway to forge a compromise on proposed judicial reforms consistent with those core principles," the statement said. Netanyahu told Biden that Israel will "remain, a strong and vibrant democracy," according to the prime minister's office.

Netanyahu said Sunday the legal changes would be carried out responsibly while protecting the basic rights of all Israelis. His government — the country's most right-wing ever — says the overhaul is meant to correct an imbalance that has given the courts too

much power and prevented lawmakers from carrying out the voting public's will. Critics say it will upend Israel's delicate system of checks and balances and slide the country toward authoritarianism. Opponents of the measure have carried out disruptive protests, and has even embroiled the country's military, after more than 700 elite officers from the Air Force, special forces, and Mossad said they would stop volunteering for duty.

The conversation followed a Sunday meeting in Egypt between Israeli and Palestinian officials in which they pledged to take steps to lower tensions ahead of a sensitive holiday season. Administration officials

praised the outcome of the summit in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh. A joint communique said the sides had reaffirmed a commitment to de-escalate and prevent further violence.

Biden in the call "reinforced the need for all sides to take urgent, collaborative steps to enhance security coordination, condemn all acts of terrorism, and maintain the viability of a two-state solution," according to the White House.

The Israeli and Palestinian delegations met for the second time in less than a month, shepherded by regional allies Egypt and Jordan, as well as the United States, to end a yearlong spasm of violence.

More than 200 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, and more than 40 Israelis or foreigners have been killed in Palestinian attacks during that time. These include pledges to stop unilateral actions, it said. Israel pledged to stop discussion of new settlement construction for four months, and to stop plans to legalize unauthorized settlement outposts for six months.

"The two sides agreed to establish a mechanism to curb and counter violence, incitement and inflammatory statements and actions," the communique said. The sides would report on progress at a follow-up meeting in Egypt next month, it added.

The Biden administration remains concerned about a repeat of the nightly clashes and other violent incidents between Palestinians and Israelis in Jerusalem during Ramadan two years ago. Clashes at the Temple Mount in 2021 helped trigger an 11-day war between Israel and Hamas, which rules the Gaza Strip. Under longstanding arrangements, Jews are allowed to visit the site but not pray there. But in recent years, the number of visitors has grown, with some quietly praying. Such scenes have raised fears among Palestinians that Israel is trying to alter the status quo. □

Nations approve key U.N. science report on climate change

By FRANK JORDANS

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Govern-

ments gave their blessing on Sunday to a major new U.N. report on climate change, after approval was held up by a battle between rich and developing countries over emissions targets and financial aid to vulnerable nations.

The report by hundreds of the world's top scientists was supposed to be approved by government delegations on Friday at

the end of a weeklong meeting in the Swiss town of Interlaken.

The closing gavel was repeatedly pushed back as officials from big nations such as China, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, the United States and the European Union haggled through the weekend over the wording of key phrases in the text.

A summary of the report was approved early Sunday but agreement on the main text dragged on for several more hours, with

some observers fearing it might need to be postponed.

The U.N. plans to publish the report at a news conference early Monday afternoon.

The unusual process of having countries sign off on a scientific report is intended to ensure that governments accept its findings as authoritative advice on which to base their actions.

At the start of the meeting, U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres called



A usually submerged section of the lake Serre-Poncon is dry in southern France, March 14, 2023.

Associated Press

on delegates to provide "cold, hard facts" to drive home the message that there's little time left for the

world to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) compared with preindustrial times. □

California to seek beds for mental health, drug treatment

SAN DIEGO (AP) — California voters would decide whether to fund a major expansion of housing and treatment for residents suffering from mental illness and addiction, under the latest proposal by Gov. Gavin Newsom to address the state's homelessness crisis.

Newsom announced Sunday that he will ask allies in the Democratic-controlled Legislature for a measure on the 2024 ballot to authorize funding to build residential facilities where up to 12,000 people a year could live and be treated. The plan is the latest by the governor who took office in 2019 vowing to own the issue of homelessness in a state where an estimated 171,000 were unhoused last year.

The governor called the plan the next step in how California expands services for unhoused people, especially those with psychological and substance use disorders.

"We have to address and come to grips with the reality of mental health in this state and our nation. The question is, what can we do more and do better?" Newsom said at a news conference.

California, home to nearly



California Gov. Gavin Newsom discusses his plans to build 1,200 small homes across the state to reduce homelessness, during the first of a four-day tour of the state in Sacramento Calif., on Thursday, March 16, 2023.

Associated Press

40 million people, has nearly one-third of the nation's homeless population, and their numbers are growing much faster than in other states, according to an analysis of federal data by the Public Policy Institute of California.

Tent encampments have popped up on sidewalks and under freeway overpasses, and people in clear mental health crisis are a common sight on city streets.

The initiative would be partially funded by general obligation bonds that would raise between \$3 billion and \$5 billion to go toward construction of "campus-style" facilities along with smaller homes and long-term residential settings, Newsom said.

In addition, it would overhaul California's Mental Health Services Act, an initiative approved by voters in 2004 that charges a 1% tax on incomes greater

than \$1 million to fund mental health services. Some lawmakers complained that money from the initiative bypassed those who needed it the most, and Newsom's office said the new version would improve oversight for counties.

The California State Association of Counties, representing all 58 counties in California, said in a statement Sunday that it would work with the governor and lawmakers to establish

"clear responsibilities, accountability and funding for all levels of government" to address the homelessness problem.

State Sen. Susan Talamantes Eggman, D-Stockton, will introduce the measure, which would also earmark money to house more than 10,000 homeless veterans across the state, according to the statement.

Newsom unveiled details of the plan during a stop Sunday afternoon in San Diego. The governor is in the midst of a five-day statewide tour that he's using to highlight his major policy goals. The tour replaced a traditional State of the State address. On Thursday, Newsom announced a plan to spend about \$30 million to build 1,200 small homes across the state to help house

people living on the streets. The homes can be assembled quickly and cost a fraction of what it takes to build permanent housing. Federal courts have ruled cities can't clear homeless encampments if there are no shelter beds available.

Newsom will travel Monday to Imperial County to discuss how California is poised to become a global leader in electric vehicles and clean energy, his office said. □

Miami Beach sets spring break curfew after 2 fatal shootings



Crowds gather at Ocean Drive and 8th during spring break on Saturday, March 18, 2023, in Miami Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Miami Beach officials imposed a curfew beginning Sunday night during spring break after two fatal shootings and rowdy, chaotic

crowds that police have had difficulty controlling. The city said in a news release the curfew would be from 11:59 p.m. Sunday until 6 a.m. Monday, with

an additional curfew likely to be put in place Thursday through next Monday, March 27. The curfew mainly affects South Beach, the most popular party location for spring breakers.

The release said the two separate shootings Friday night and early Sunday that left two people dead and "excessively large and unruly crowds" led to the decision. The city commission plans a meeting Monday to discuss potential further restrictions next week. Miami Beach Mayor Dan Gelber said in a video message posted Sunday that the crowds and presence of numerous firearms has "created a peril that cannot go unchecked" despite massive police presence

and many city-sponsored activities meant to keep people busy.

"We don't ask for spring break in our city. We don't want spring break in our city. It's too rowdy, it's too much disorder and it's too difficult to police," Gelber said.

The latest shooting happened about 3:30 a.m. Sunday on Ocean Drive in South Beach, according to Miami Beach police. A male was shot and died later at a hospital, and officers chased down a suspect on foot, police said on Twitter. Their identities were not released, nor were any possible charges.

In the Friday night shooting, one male victim was killed and another seriously

injured, sending crowds scrambling in fear from restaurants and clubs into the streets as gunshots rang out. Police detained one person at the scene and found four firearms, but no other details have been made available.

Under the curfew, people must leave businesses before midnight, although hotels can operate later only in service to their guests. The city release said restaurants can stay open only for delivery and the curfew won't apply to residents, people going to and from work, emergency services and hotel guests. Some roads will be closed off and arriving hotel guests may have to show proof of their reservations. □

West Bank attack casts shadow over Israel-Palestinian talks

By SAMY MAGDY and TIA GOLDENBERG

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — A Palestinian gunman opened fire at an Israeli vehicle in the occupied West Bank on Sunday, wounding two people, Israeli officials said. The attack cast a shadow over Egyptian-mediated efforts to lower tensions ahead of a sensitive holiday period beginning this week.

The shooting came as Israeli and Palestinian officials were meeting in the Egyptian resort town of Sharm el-Sheikh in a bid to rein in a spiral of violence as the Muslim holy month of Ramadan begins this week. The shooting immediately raised questions about the prospects for the new talks.

The meeting was the second attempt by the sides, shepherded by regional allies Egypt and Jordan as well as the United States, to end a year-long spasm of violence that has seen more than 200 Palestinians killed by Israeli fire and more than 40 Israelis or foreigners killed in Palestinian attacks.

Whatever progress emerged out of the previous meeting in Jordan late last month, which ended with pledges to de-escalate tensions, was quickly derailed when a new burst of violence erupted on the same day. A Palestinian gunman shot and killed two Israelis in the occupied West Bank and Jewish settlers in response rampaged in a Palestinian town, destroying property and leading to the death of one Palestinian.

As Sunday's talks were underway, a Palestinian gunman opened fire on an Israeli car in the same town — Hawara — as last month's violence, the Israeli military said.

Israeli medics said a man was shot in the upper body and was seriously wounded while his wife was lightly hurt.

The Israeli army said the suspect was shot — either by the wounded man or by soldiers — and arrested. His condition was not immediately known.



Smoke from fires fills the air as Palestinians clash with Israeli forces in the West Bank city of Nablus, Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2023.

Associated Press

Hawara lies on a busy road in the northern part of the West Bank that is used by Israeli residents of nearby Jewish settlements. Many settlers carry guns.

Bloodshed has been surging since last month's meeting in Jordan, making expectations for Sunday's second installment low. The killing of an Islamic Jihad militant in neighboring Syria added to the tensions Sunday. The militant group, which is active in the northern West Bank, accused Israel of assassinating the commander. Israel had no comment.

Still, mediators want to ease tensions ahead of Ramadan, which start this week and which will coincide next month with the weeklong Jewish holiday of Passover.

Ahmed Abu Zaid, a spokesman for the Egyptian foreign ministry, said Sunday's meeting would be attended by "high-level political and security officials" from each side, as well as from Egypt, Jordan and the U.S. He wrote on Twitter that the talks are part of efforts to achieve and support calm between Israel and the Palestinians.

Abu Zaid said regional and international participation in the meeting aims at establishing "mechanisms" to follow and activate what

the parties agree on, but provided no additional details.

The talks are part of efforts to support "dialogue between the Palestinian and Israeli sides to work towards ceasing unilateral measures and escalation, and to break the existing cycle of violence and achieve calm," he said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made no mention of the summit in his weekly Cabinet meeting. Palestinian official Hussein al-Sheikh tweeted that the meeting was meant to "demand an end to this continuous Israeli aggression against us."

Israeli media said senior security officials were set to attend.

The upcoming period is sensitive because large numbers of Jewish and Muslim faithful pour into Jerusalem's Old City, the emotional heart of the conflict and a flashpoint for violence, increasing friction points. Large numbers of Jews are also expected to visit a key Jerusalem holy site, known to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary and to Jews as the Temple Mount, which the Palestinians view as a provocation. Clashes at the site in 2021 helped trigger an 11-day war between Israel and the militant Palestinian group

Hamas, which rules the Gaza Strip.

While the latest violence began under the previous Israeli government, it has intensified in the first two months of the new government, headed by Netanyahu and his coalition — the country's most right-wing administration ever. The government is dominated by hard-line settlement supporters. Itamar Ben-Gvir, the minister who oversees the police, is an extremist once relegated to the fringes of Israeli politics, with past convictions for incitement to violence and support of a Jewish terror group.

Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich called for Hawara to be "erased" after last month's settler rampage, apologizing after an international outcry.

The violence is one of the worst rounds between Israel and the Palestinians in the West Bank and east Jerusalem in years.

Following a spate of Palestinian attacks against Israelis last spring, Israel launched near-nightly raids in the West Bank in what it says is a bid to stem the attacks and dismantle militant networks. But the raids did not appear to slow the violence and attacks against Israelis have continued, killing 44 people. □

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From highlands to the coast, quake damages Ecuador, Peru

By GONZALO SOLANO and REGINA GARCIA CANO

Associated Press

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — Juan Vera lost three relatives when a strong earthquake that shook parts of Ecuador and Peru on Saturday brought down his niece's home. The government has offered to pay for the woman's funeral and those of her baby and her partner, but Vera wonders why local authorities allowed his relatives to live in such an old home to begin with.

"Because of its age, that building should have been demolished already," Vera said outside the morgue in Ecuador's community of Machala, where he was waiting for the three bodies to be released. "... I'm sorry, the mayor's office is the entity that has to regulate these things through its planning departments so that the buildings are in good condition to be rented out or inhabited."

The earthquake with about 6.8 magnitude, as reported by the U.S. Geological Survey, killed at least 15 people and brought down homes and buildings in vastly different communities, from coastal areas to the highlands. But in Ecuador, regardless of geography, many of the homes that crumbled had a lot in common: They housed the



A police officer looks up next to a car crushed by debris after an earthquake shook Cuenca, Ecuador, Saturday, March 18, 2023.

Associated Press

poor, were old and did not meet building standards in the earthquake-prone country.

By Sunday, the number of people injured in Ecuador was reported to be at least 446. The earthquake centered just off the Pacific Coast, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) south of Guayaquil, Ecuador's second-largest city.

One of the victims died in Peru, while 14 others died in Ecuador, where authorities also reported more than 300 damaged homes, schools, health care centers and other buildings.

The office of Ecuadorian President Guillermo Lasso reported that 12 of the victims died in the coastal state of El Oro and two in the highlands state of Azuay.

One of the victims in Azuay was a passenger in a vehicle crushed by rubble from a house in the Andean community of Cuenca, according to the Risk Management Secretariat, Ecuador's emergency response agency.

In El Oro, the agency also reported that several people were trapped under rubble. In the community

of Machala, a two-story home collapsed before people could evacuate, a pier gave way and a building's walls cracked, trapping an unknown number of people.

Quito-based architect Germán Narváez said the houses most affected during earthquakes are those with deficient construction and that lack foundation, structure and technical design. He added that the houses are also old and built with materials such as adobe, which was once frequently used in Andean communities.

"At critical moments of seismic movements, they tend to collapse," he said.

Ecuador is particularly prone to earthquakes. In 2016, a quake centered farther north on the Pacific Coast in a more sparsely populated area of the country killed more than 600 people.

In Peru, the earthquake was felt from its northern border with Ecuador to the central Pacific coast. Peruvian Prime Minister Alberto Otárola said a 4-year-old girl died from head trauma she suffered in the collapse of her home in the Tumbes region, on the border with Ecuador.

"I'm close to the Ecuadorian people and assure them of my prayers for the dead and suffering," Francis said.

Saturday's quake killed at least 15 people, injured hundreds and brought down homes and buildings in vastly different communities, from coastal areas to the highlands. At least one of the deaths was in Peru. Saturday's earthquake destroyed the home of Dolores Vaca in Machala. The moment she felt the first jolt, she said, she ran out into the street while her husband managed to drag their daughter out. Then, "everything fell apart, the house flattened, everything was lost," she said. □



Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador gives his regularly scheduled morning press conference at the National Palace in Mexico City, Feb. 28, 2023.

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico's president said Friday that U.S. families were to blame for the fentanyl overdose crisis because they don't hug their kids enough.

The comment by President

Andrés Manuel López Obrador caps a week of provocative statements from him about the crisis caused by the fentanyl, a synthetic opioid trafficked by Mexican cartels that has been blamed for about 70,000

Lack of hugs caused U.S. fentanyl crisis, Mexico's leader says

overdose deaths per year in the United States.

López Obrador said family values have broken down in the United States, because parents don't let their children live at home long enough. He has also denied that Mexico produces fentanyl.

On Friday, the Mexican president told a morning news briefing that the problem was caused by "a lack of hugs, of embraces." "There is a lot of disintegration of families, there is a lot of individualism, there is a lack of love, of brotherhood, of hugs and em-

braces," López Obrador said of the U.S. crisis. "That is why they (U.S. officials) should be dedicating funds to address the causes."

López Obrador has repeatedly said that Mexico's close-knit family values are what have saved it from the wave of fentanyl overdoses. Experts say that Mexican cartels are making so much money now from the U.S. market that they see no need to sell fentanyl in their home market. Cartels frequently sell methamphetamine in Mexico, where the drug is more popular because it pur-

portedly helps people work harder.

López Obrador has been stung by calls in the United States to designate Mexican drug gangs as terrorist organizations. Some Republicans have said they favor using the U.S. military to crack down on the Mexican cartels.

On Wednesday, López Obrador called anti-drug policies in the U.S. a failure Wednesday and proposed a ban in both countries on using fentanyl in medicine — even though little of the drug crosses from hospitals into the illegal market. □



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Fitch upgrades Aruba's credit rating to BB+

(NLTimes)—Fitch Ratings has announced the great news that the credit rating (rate of financial credibility) of the Aruban government has improved to BB+. This is the result of the evaluation by Fitch Ratings back in February, where there have been many discussion with various government actors and those from the private sectors.

The ratings outlook, which reflects the prospect that Fitch Ratings takes in the improvement of the ratings in the near future, remains stable. This reflects the debt and high interest rate.

Additionally, this also reflects the vulnerability of a singular economic pillar on the

island, namely tourism, for external shock.

Fitch Ratings gives the Aruban government recognition for the strong recovery in Aruba's economy and public finances after the pandemic. Other positive points accentuated by Fitch Ratings is the political stability and the constitutional relationship with The Netherlands, which has been proven during the pandemic through financial support and vaccine donations.

The Aruban government, particularly the minister of Finance and Culture, Mrs. Xiomara Maduro, wants to give thanks to those that have cooperated in one



form or another in these results. Despite some major financial challenges that the island faced, Aruba was able to gain trust from those who evaluated the financial credibility of the government.□

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Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Don Alhart

He wrote to us saying:

"Sure, I love the beach, the weather, and the sunsets. Aruba to me, though, is also lamp post 1722, along the biking and walking path that was formally a divided highway.

It is the "goal" of my 3 1/2 mile walk- each day I am on 'One Happy Island.'

Lamp post #1722 is exactly 1.75 miles from the Marriott Surf Club- my "turnaround", if you will.

If is the people I encounter along the way that enrich my day. Some, I see every March, when we stay for two weeks. Others, whom I assume are residents, I see every time we return in the summer or fall. We wave! We smile! We say 'Bon Dia!'

The smiles, greetings, and the encouragement as I wind my way back through the various resorts allow me to embrace the friendly spirit of this happy island.

When I tried to take a selfie, a couple stopped and offered to help. As they snapped the photos they asked, 'Is this lamp post special?'

'Yes,' I said. 'It is a reminder of the wonderful people who are Aruba to Me!'

Thank you for sending us this



wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers!□



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Coder Dojo for children of all ages at the National Library

ORANJESTAD - The Full Stack Vision foundation has 'Coder Dojo' lessons at the National Library for over a year in Oranjestad and San Nicolas.

To offer this Dojo, Full Stack Vision Foundation started a collaboration with the National Library in 2021. It launched its first Coder Dojo session at the National Library in Oranjestad and soon after at the Library in San Nicolas. Both are successful.

What is Coder Dojo?

Each session of the Coder Dojo provides children the opportunity to learn about coding, website development, apps, programs and computer games, and computer engineering.



They can explore and experiment and play. The children will work together on different projects.

Full Stack Vision Foundation works with volunteers as mentors to ensure each child gets proper guidance and attention.

Parents interested in this program for the children to

join can find more information on <https://arucoderdojo.org/>

Mr. Bruce Harms and Mrs. Thanya Croes of Full Stack Vision Foundation gave their observation and shared their ideas for the future. They formalized their partnership with the National

Library with an agreement.

Mrs. Astrid Britten, Director of the National Library, signed this agreement and is happy that Coder Dojo remains at the library for the next four years. A Coder Dojo sign was recently installed in the Library in Oranjestad and San Nicolas and was created by Adolfo and Joshua Valbuena. □



Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Divi Aruba All Inclusive Resort

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently recognized the Goodwill Ambassador of Aruba. Presenting the Ambassador with the Distinguished certification as a token of appreciation. The Distinguished certification is granted to ambassadors to recognize the loyalty, friendship, and visits to the island of Aruba. Goodwill Honoree has been choosing Aruba as her preferred vacation destination for

more than 20 years consecutively. The Honoring certification program has three levels, which are divided according to the quantity of consecutive years visiting the island.

Honoring Levels:

- Distinguished Ambassadors: 10> years
- Goodwill Ambassadors: 20> years
- Emerald Ambassadors: 35> years

Honoree was:
Goodwill Ambassadors 20> years:

Vangelina Sampson resident of Massachusetts, United States (has been coming to Aruba for 30 years).

Ms. Olga Ruiz representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and members of Divi Aruba All Inclusive Resort bestowed the certification of the Goodwill Ambassador. The honorees were presented with the Goodwill Ambassador Certificate and memorable gifts.

On behalf of the Aruba Government, we would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to Mrs. Vangelina Sampson. Thank you for making Aruba your



favored vacation destination for so many years. We are so honored to have had such a wonderful visitor over all these years! Aruba is without a doubt your home away from home! □

Top reason for returning to Aruba, provided by the honorees were:

Mrs. Sampson reasons:

- Family
- Friends
- Family friends
- Safe
- The friendliest island in the world □





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ARUBA DOET – PEACE LABYRINTH: When individuals unite to serve their community, something magical



Before the sun rose, we set up buckets with gloves and garden tools for each volunteer. The air was filled with excitement, and as soon as it got a bit brighter, volunteers arrived to start beautifying the gardens. Gradually, the local trees and plants that were once entirely covered in weeds emerged anew, such as the Foyo di Cruz, Watapana, Wayaca, Aloe Vera, Shimarucu and Teco plants.

More volunteers arrived, each bringing various garden tools, including weed trimmers, rakes, and wheelbarrows. We soon saw the labyrinth paths become clear and revitalized with white sand, and the atmosphere was incredibly collaborative. Everyone did what they physically could, whether they were families, friends, colleagues, or teams from Deloitte Dutch Caribbean, Departamento di Asunto Social, or IMC Corporate Services.

During breaks, we enjoyed coffee with delicious fresh muffins by Santos and healthy snacks, including fresh mango juice for the younger volunteers who were a joy to have around.

rinth. To ground it further, we invite the community to walk this beautiful labyrinth for relaxation, reflection, and contemplation. Spending time at the labyrinth will heal and help you recharge, release stress, and feel more energized again.

A big thank you to all the Aruba Doet volunteers who gave their time, attention, and energy to serve the community.

For more information about the Aruba Peace Labyrinth project, please contact: Gea Souge at mobile +297 5944250 / Email: gea-souge@gmail.com □



Aruba Today is delighted to share to its readers a new segment called "Beauty and the Beach", where we take a minute to honor our guests who have decided to spend their vacation on our beautiful and warm island.

In this edition, we'd like to give a shout out to **Henry Boeniger from Rhode Island and Angel & Ron Braccianti from Long Island, USA**. Aruba is always proud to host all families and guests. We at Aruba Today encourage any visitor of the island to send in their pictures and/or messages; who knows? You might get on the cover!



**beauty
& THE
BEACH**

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Aruba's underwater wonderland



ORANJESTAD - Exploring selected the top spots for you.

Tres Trapi
Tres Trapi means tree steps in Papiamento, Papiamento is together with Dutch the official language spoken on Aruba. The beach is called Tres Trapi because it is accessible by the tree steps carved into the rocks. Tres Trapi is a small rocky beach, located on the north-western side of the island, approximately 5 to 10 minute drive from Palm Beach. From the unique steps you can easily walk over the beach into the

clear and turquoise blue ocean. While snorkeling you will encounter all kind of tropical fishes and sea stars. The kind of starfish you will find in the Aruban waters is the red cushion sea star. This is a starfish that is commonly found in the shallow waters of the Caribbean sea and if you are lucky during your snorkeling visit to Tres Trapi, you may come across one of the green sea turtles. Respect the animal, keep your distance and enjoy the view. Also remember; it is a once in a life time experience.

Antilla shipwreck

Antilla is a 400-foot-long long ship, built in 1939 in Hamburg, Germany. Antilla came to Aruba, because it had to find a neutral port. When Germany invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1940, the crew decided to let their own ship sink, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Dutch Navy. Antilla lies on its port-side in Malmok bay, and the sunken word war two ship is now one of Aruba's most popular snorkeling and dive spots. However, the ship wreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the ship wreck alone is already impressive enough.

Baby Beach

Baby beach; a white beach, with a crystal blue ocean. The beach is located on the southern part of the island. On the way to the famous beach, you



will drive through the old capital of Aruba, San Nicolas. The old Aruban culture can be still felt and experienced here, so do not hesitate to get out of your car and walk around for a while. Baby beach is a child friendly beach, since it is shallow and the water has a pleasant temperature. The name therefore fits well with the beach. Baby beach is an excellent beach for snorkeling, especially if you want to go with small children, because the water remains shallow and there are still many underwater wonders to see. In the ocean there is an area marked until where it is recommended to snorkel and on the beach you will find different facilities. It is a perfect beach to spend your day snorkeling and relaxing.

Mangel Halto

Mangel Halto beach is located in Savaneta, on the southern-west part of the island. The beach is different from the other beaches in Aruba; it is beach full of mangroves. You reach the beach by a bridge through the mangroves and then you will have several entrances to the sea. There are diverse spots where you can enjoy a perfect beach day, wooden stairs made to enter the water and a dock to sit on and enjoy the view. Mangel Halto is also worth a visit for the snorkeling experience. Inside the bay, the water is clear and you find many colorful fish. Outside the bay is a bit more challenging for beginners because of the wind and the waves, but the coral is alive and it is just like snorkel heaven. □

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by Urvin Croes

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Jerwin Giel 8 years after cancer diagnosis: “I want to be an inspiration for others”

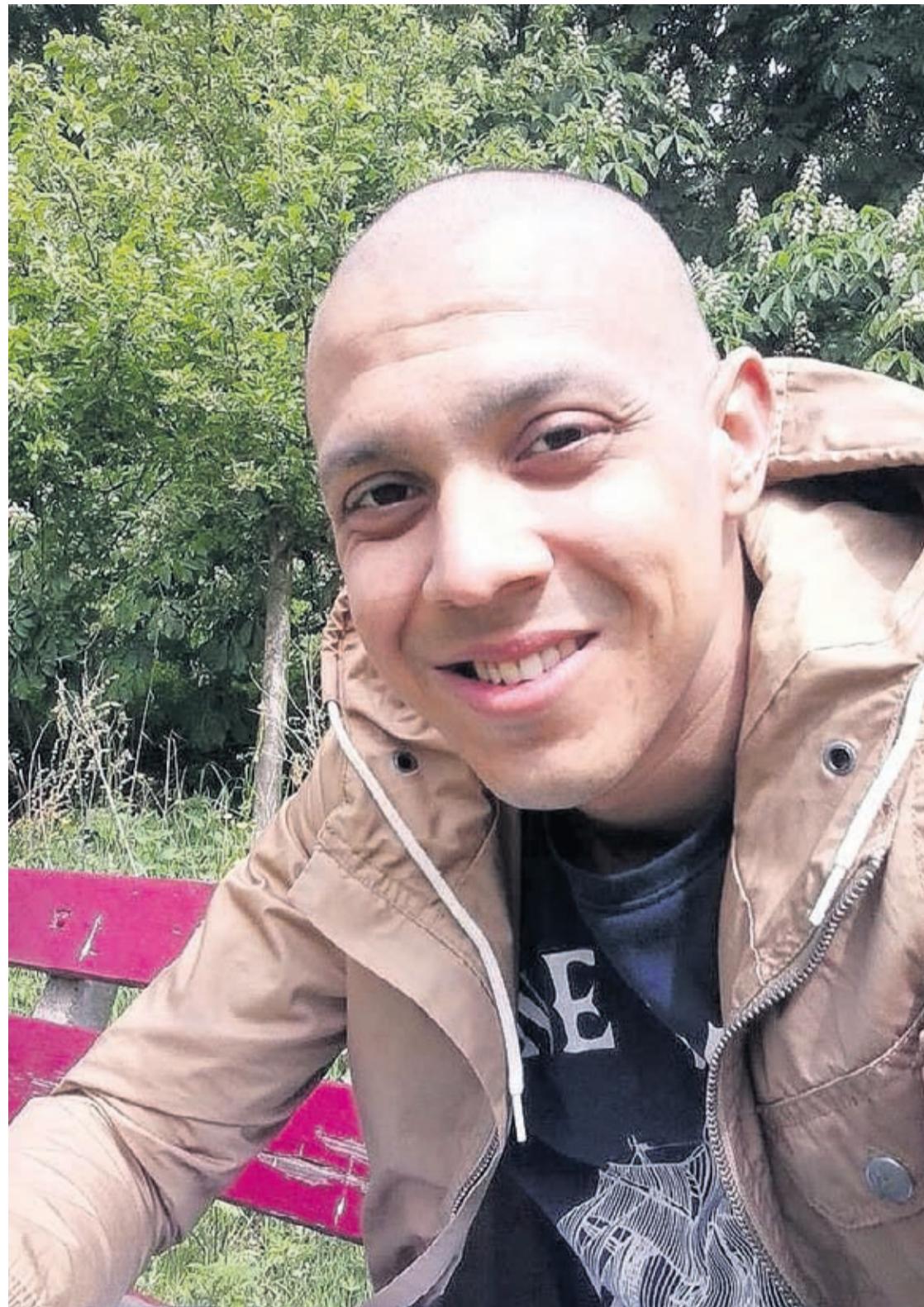
(Oranjestad)—The world celebrated World Cancer Day this past Saturday. This is a day to raise awareness and prevention for a disease that many lose their lives to and that others overcome and keep fighting.

Jerwin Giel is one a young man who around 8 years ago, had to confront the hardest challenge of his life when he was diagnosed with cancer. In an interview with Bon Dia Aruba, he shared his story and provided insight on his life after his fight with testicular cancer at a young age. Giel said that everything started with a simple back pain. He was in and out of the doctor's office and received many medications for this pain, but nothing seemed to work.

After that, he realized that his sperm production became scarce, and during one of his usual work outs, he felt a pain he had never felt before. In that same week, Giel said that he went to the doctor and explained his entire dilemma. “When the doctor assessed me, his eyes widened after I told him I had been experiencing back pain for several months now,” he said. He continued by saying that his general practitioner sent him to Dr. Moreta and asked him to do some blood work and make a CT scan of his back. However, Giel, young and rebellious, did not follow through with all his orders.

“I still remember the date, 13 or 16 of December I was in class and Dr. Moreta called to ask where I was. He told me to go to the hospital and take some pictures and bring them to him. That's when I knew that something was off,” he remarked.

After taking his pictures, he went by the doctor's office and that is where he received the news that he had stage 3-4 testicular cancer. “I told him to tell my family, because I'm a joker, and they wouldn't



believe me if I told them,” He indicated.

Giel explained that at the same time, the doctor told him to get ready to go stay in the hospital, as they would be operating the next day to remove the tumor. After his operation, Giel spent Christmas with his family at home and had to undergo chemotherapy treatment the next week.

Every chemo cycle took 21 days, and Giel had to undergo 4 in total. He indicated that for 5 days straight, he had chemo. During those 5 days, he had to stay in the hospital and receive three bags of chemo. Fridays were al-

ways the hardest.

“I always look for the good in bad situations, and I found out that on chemo day they give you whatever you want to eat, so that became something I looked forward to. It was a way to make it bearable,” he recalled.

He shared that his body did not react badly to the first two rounds of chemo. He did however start to feel sick during the third cycle. He noticed his hair falling out and his lack of energy. “The chemo was so strong that I would taste it in my mouth and smell it whenever I went to the bathroom. It kills the bad cells, but also

the good ones,” He added. In terms of the physical effects of the chemo, he said that he felt them right away. From his first day of chemo, he noticed that his ears started ringing, like a firework went off right next to you. To this day, he still experiences this ringing.

“I see it as selective hearing now. Whenever I don't want to listen to someone, I just pretend that I can't

hear them. Again, trying to see the good in all this,” Giel said.

He remembers the first time his hair starting to fall off. He recalls that he was in class, and he decided the same day to shave it off. Giel told the newspaper about one of his fond memories during the new year, where they let him light a firework outside the hospital parking lot. “During the process, I would see the positive and I stayed a happy person on the outside, but inside I was actually becoming miserable,” he remarked.

After he finished chemo, Giel shared that he thought he was done, but two days later he was informed that he had to go to The Netherlands to operate. They did not tell him what type of operation it was in Aruba, but he found out when he arrived in The Netherlands. “They told me that they would have to open me up to remove all of my lymph nodes, because they had become a teratoma. That meant that they found teeth, hair, nails etc.,” he stated.

Giel remarked that right before he entered the operation room, he cried for the first time. “I cried a lot, and I just couldn't stop, no matter how hard I tried. The nurses asked me to calm down, but I was hysterical; I just had to let everything out.”

Giel highlighted that even though he told his journey from his perspective, with a strong and positive mindset, he remarks that he could not have gone through it all without his supportive system. “I will forever be grateful for God and their help. I want to be inspiration for others. With a strong mindset, you can face any obstacle that comes your way.” □

CROSSWORD

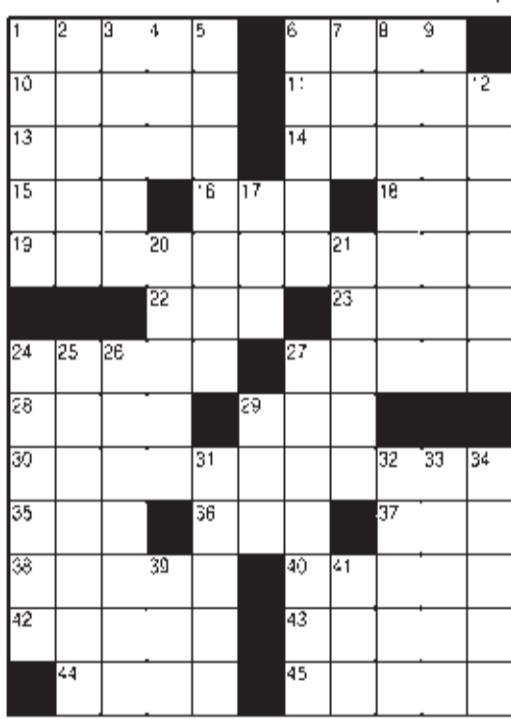
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Walk proudly 43 Fleet-based
- 6 Rotisserie part 44 Appointment
- 10 The ones here 45 Portents
- 11 Diminishes 1 Sipping aid
- 13 Watch a second time 2 Letter
- 14 In the know before iota 12 Folk's
- 15 Had lunch 3 Stopwatch button
- 16 Total 4 Take advantage
- 18 Director Spike 5 Golfer's start
- 19 Part of a Swiss timepiece 6 Marsh
- 22 Director Howard 7 Fido's foot
- 23 Formerly 8 Queued up
- 24 Hitter's turn 9 Roman dramatist
- 27 Ranch animal
- 28 Noggin
- 29 In addition
- 30 Part of a mattress
- 35 Flop
- 36 Lobed organ
- 37 Rawls or Reed
- 38 Make blank
- 40 Coral island
- 42 TV's Leary



Saturday's answer



AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-20

CRYPTOQUOTE

H U G V K M V G R R X H A X H E

D G L Z U H E A G J L T B H V B .

N H K Z L T K J L Z G L A X H A M Z V E .

— Z. F. RXHKZ

Saturday's Cryptoquote: TRAVEL MAKES ONE MODEST. YOU SEE WHAT A TINY PLACE YOU OCCUPY IN THE WORLD. GUSTAVE FLAUBERT

Will Americans end up footing the bill for bank failures?

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government's response to the failure of two large banks has already involved hundreds of billions of dollars. So will ordinary Americans end up paying for it, one way or another? And what will the price tag be? It could be months before the answers are fully known. The Biden administration said it will guarantee uninsured deposits at both banks. The Federal Reserve announced a new lending program for all banks that need to borrow money to pay for withdrawals.

On Thursday, the Fed provided the first glimpse of the scale of the response: It said banks had borrowed about \$300 billion in emergency funding in the past week, with nearly half that amount going to holding companies for the two failed banks to pay depositors. The Fed did not say how many other banks borrowed money and added that it expects the loans to be repaid.

The goal is to prevent a broadening panic in which customers rush to pull out so much money that even healthy banks buckle. That scenario would unsettle the entire financial system and risk derailing the economy. Taxpayers will probably bear no direct cost for the failure of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank. But other banks may have to help defray the cost of covering uninsured deposits. Over time, those banks could pass higher costs on to customers, forcing everyone to pay more for services.

Here are some questions and answers about the cost of the bank collapses:

HOW IS THE RESPONSE BEING PAID FOR?

Most of the cost of guaranteeing all deposits at both banks will likely be covered by the proceeds the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. receives from winding down the two banks — either by selling them to other financial institutions



A pedestrian carries an umbrella while walking past a Silicon Valley Bank Private branch in San Francisco, Tuesday, March 14, 2023.

Associated Press

or by auctioning off their assets.

Any costs beyond that would be paid for out of the FDIC's deposit insurance fund, which is typically used in the event of a bank failure to reimburse depositors for up to \$250,000 per account. The fund is maintained with fees paid by participating banks.

Both Silicon Valley and Signature banks had a strikingly high share of deposits above that amount: 94% of Silicon Valley's deposits were uninsured, as were 90% of deposits at Signature. The average figure for large banks is about half that level.

If necessary, the insurance fund will be replenished by a "special assessment" on banks, the FDIC, Fed and Treasury said in a joint statement. Though the cost of that assessment could ultimately be borne by bank customers, it's not clear how much money would be involved.

Kathryn Judge, a law professor at Columbia University, said a bigger cost to consumers and the economy could stem from potentially major changes to the financial system that result from this episode.

If all customer deposits were considered guaranteed by the government, formally or informally, then regulations would need to be strengthened to prevent bank failures or lessen their costs when they do happen. Banks might have

to pay permanently higher fees to the FDIC.

"It's going to require us to revisit the entire bank regulatory framework," Judge said. "That's far more significant than the modest costs that other banks will pay."

WILL TAXPAYERS BE ON THE HOOK?

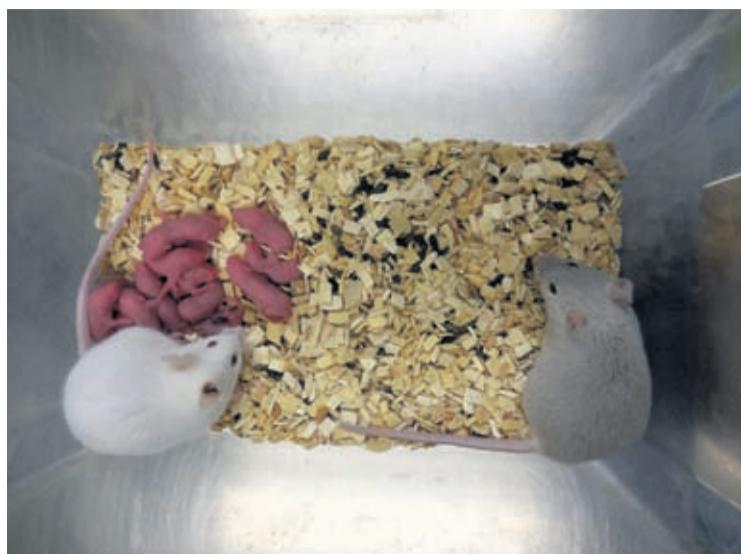
President Joe Biden has insisted that no taxpayer money will be used to resolve the crisis. The White House is desperate to avoid any perception that average Americans are "bailing out" the two banks in a way similar to the highly unpopular bailouts of the biggest financial firms during the 2008 financial crisis.

"No losses associated with the resolution of Silicon Valley Bank will be borne by the taxpayer," read the joint statement from the Treasury, Fed and FDIC.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen defended that view Thursday under tough questioning from GOP lawmakers.

The Fed's lending program to help banks pay depositors is backed by \$25 billion of taxpayer funds that would cover any losses on the loans. But the Fed says it's unlikely that the money will be needed because the loans will be backed by Treasury bonds and other safe securities as collateral. Even if taxpayers aren't directly on the hook, some economists say the banks' customers still stand to benefit from government support. □

Scientists create mice with cells from 2 males for 1st time



This photo provided by researcher Katsuhiko Hayashi shows a fertile adult male mouse, right, with his offspring and another adult mouse, in Osaka, Japan in September 2021.

Associated Press

By LAURA UNGAR
AP Science Writer

For the first time, scientists have created baby mice from two males. This raises the distant possibility of using the same technique for people – although experts caution that very few mouse embryos developed into live mouse pups and no one knows whether it would work for humans.

Still, "It's a very clever strategy," said Diana Laird, a stem cell and reproductive expert at the University of California, San Francisco, who was not involved in the research. "It's an important step in both stem cell and reproductive biology." Scientists described their work in a study published Wednesday in the journal *Nature*.

First, they took skin cells from the tails of male mice and transformed them into "induced pluripotent stem cells," which can develop into many different types of cells or tissues. Then, through a process that involved growing them and treating them with a drug, they converted male mouse stem cells into female cells and produced functional egg cells. Finally, they fertilized those eggs and implanted the embryos into female mice. About 1% of the embryos – 7 out of 630 – grew into live mouse pups.

The pups appeared to grow normally and were able to become parents themselves in the usual way, research leader Katsuhiko Hayashi of Kyushu University and Osaka Uni-

versity in Japan told fellow scientists at the Third International Summit on Human Genome Editing last week. In a commentary published alongside the *Nature* study, Laird and her colleague, Jonathan Bayerl, said the work "opens up new avenues in reproductive biology and fertility research" for animals and people. Down the road, for example, it might be possible to reproduce endangered mammals from a single male. "And it might even provide a template for enabling more people," such as male same-sex couples, "to have biological chil-

dren, while circumventing the ethical and legal issues of donor eggs," they wrote. But they raised several cautions. The most notable one? The technique is extremely inefficient. They said it's unclear why only a tiny fraction of the embryos placed into surrogate mice survived; the reasons could be technical or biological. They also stressed that it's still too early to know if the protocol would work in human stem cells at all. □



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ARUBA TODAY BONDIA

How to reach us!

ARUBA TODAY BONDIA

How to reach us!

Map: A magnifying glass is focused on a map of Aruba, specifically on the area around the Royal Plaza Mall and the Royal Beach Hotel. The map shows various streets and landmarks.

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Shiffrin ends World Cup ski season with yet another record

SOLDEU, Andorra (AP) — After capping her record-setting season with career win 88, Mikaela Shiffrin was asked one question over and over again — and she couldn't really answer it. What's next?

"What do you think will come next? How many victories?" Johan Eliasch, president of the International Ski and Snowboard Federation, wanted to know after handing Shiffrin her fifth big crystal globe, the prize for winning the World Cup overall title.

"I don't have a guess at how many," Shiffrin replied. "Sometimes a part of me feels like that's always my last victory. I hope not, I keep heading for more."

A week after breaking the record of Swedish great Ingemar Stenmark, the American extended the all-time best mark for most career wins to 88 by winning the last race of the season, a giant slalom at the World Cup Finals on Sunday.

Her 21st career win in the discipline marked yet another milestone as it moved Shiffrin past Swiss skier Vreni Schneider, who had 20 World Cup GS victories between the mid-80s and mid-90s. The American has won seven of the last eight events and took the GS world title last month.



United States' Mikaela Shiffrin poses with her trophies for the alpine ski, World Cup slalom discipline, giant slalom discipline, and overall leader, right, in Soldeu, Andorra, Sunday, March 19, 2023.

Associated Press

The overall record, between men and women, is held by Stenmark, who won 46 giant slaloms in the 1970s and 80s.

The "what's next?" question also came from her boyfriend and World Cup downhill champion, Aleksander Aamodt Kilde, who conducted a course-side interview after the race.

"I don't know, you guys tell me. Just keep moving right along," said Shiffrin, who also secured the slalom and GS titles this season.

After Kilde asked her about

plans to improve for next season, Shiffrin quipped: "We can discuss that later, in private."

Shiffrin also set a personal best of 2,206 World Cup points from 31 starts this season, two points more than her tally from 2018-19, when she competed in 26 races.

Only one skier secured more points in a single season: Slovenian great Tina Maze ended her 2012-13 campaign on 2,414.

Later, Shiffrin posed for photos with men's overall

champion Marco Odermatt, who set the men's record of 2,042 points. It's the first World Cup season in which both the women's and men's overall champion finished on more than 2,000 points.

Sunday's result also marked Shiffrin's record 138th career World Cup podium, moving her one ahead of former teammate Lindsey Vonn's mark of 137.

But for Shiffrin, her personal favorite record came nine years ago.

"Honestly, I think probably

being the youngest Olympic slalom champion. That was really the only record that I actually ever wanted, like really shot for," said Shiffrin, who was 18 when she won her first Olympic gold at the 2014 Sochi Games.

"It happened quite some time ago, and I'm still motivated today, I still had that nervous feeling up there. I was so nervous at the start ... because you want to do well. And it doesn't matter about records, it's just you want to do well."

With the sun beaming down on the Avet course, Shiffrin held on to her a first-run lead to edge Thea Louise Stjernesund by 0.06 seconds. The Norwegian earned her first career podium. Canadian skier Valerie Grenier was third, trailing Shiffrin by 0.20.

Three of the top seven ranked racers did not finish their first runs, as Petra Vlhova, who won Saturday's slalom, Federica Brignone and Olympic champion Sara Hector all missed a gate.

Two-time former world champion Tessa Worley placed 11th in what she said would be the last race of her career. The French GS specialist has won 16 races and three season titles, most recently last year. □

U.S. Open 'very hopeful' unvaccinated Novak Djokovic can play



Serbia's Novak Djokovic looks up during the quarterfinals of the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Thursday, March 1, 2023.

Associated Press

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Tennis Writer

After Novak Djokovic withdrew from tournaments in Florida and California because he still can't travel to the United States as a for-

ign citizen who is not vaccinated against COVID-19, a U.S. Tennis Association spokesman said Saturday the group is "very hopeful" the top-ranked player will be allowed into the country for the U.S. Open in August. "Policies concerning access to the United States are determined by the White House. We are very hopeful that the policy preventing Novak Djokovic from entering the United States will be rescinded, or lapse, in the near future," the USTA's Chris Widmaier wrote to The Associated Press. "No COVID-19 restrictions are in place at the U.S. Open for any player, fan or other attendee. Novak, one of our sport's great champions, would be welcome to compete at the 2023 U.S. Open."

The two-week U.S. Open starts in Flushing Meadows on Aug. 28.

Djokovic, a 35-year-old

from Serbia, was unable to get to New York for the season's last Grand Slam tournament in 2022, when he also missed the Miami Open and BNP Paribas Open because he never got the shots for the illness caused by the coronavirus. A six-time Miami Open champion, Djokovic is out of the field for the event that begins next week, a spokesman for the Miami Open said Saturday.

Djokovic is No. 1 in the ATP rankings and is tied with Rafael Nadal — who is injured and also won't be in Miami — at 22 Grand Slam titles, the record for most won by a man. In 2023, Djokovic is 15-1 with two titles, including at the Australian Open

in January. But he will now have missed the first two Masters 1000 events of the season. He also pulled out of the BNP Paribas Open in Indian Wells, California, which ends this weekend.

Back in April 2020, as the pandemic raged, Djokovic said he was opposed to needing to be vaccinated to travel. He later said he would not get inoculated even if it meant missing tournaments.

In January 2022, he tried to get an exemption to compete at the Australian Open and traveled to Melbourne. But after his case went to court, his visa was revoked and Djokovic was deported from the country. □

Moore delivers surprise, tops Spieth, Schenk at Innisbrook

PALM HARBOR, Fla. (AP) — Taylor Moore delivered the clutch shots to move into contention, closed with a 4-under 67 and won the Valspar Championship on Sunday when he avoided the mistakes that cost Jordan Spieth and Adam Schenk.

In only his second year on the PGA Tour, the 29-year-old who grew up outside Oklahoma City is now headed to the Masters next month.

He was on the practice range preparing for a playoff and missed a wild finish on the Copperhead course at Innisbrook.

Spieth was tied for the lead when he sent his tee shot into the water on the 16th and managed to stay in the game by getting up-and-down from 163 yards to salvage bogey. On the par-3 17th, which yielded only two birdies all day, Spieth hit 4-iron to 6 feet — only to miss the birdie putt. The real heartbreak belonged to Schenk, whose wife flew down to Florida for the final round a month before she is due with their first child. Schenk holed a 70-foot birdie putt on the 12th hole. He made tough par saves on the 16th and 17th holes to stay tied.

On the 18th, however, he pulled his tee shot to the left. It was roughly the same line as Moore had hit his tee shot earlier, only Schenk's ball rolled through the gallery and stopped next to a pine tree.

His only shot was hitting an inverted gap wedge left-handed, and it was a dandy, shooting across the fairway into the rough. His third shot came up just short of a ridge and rolled onto the fringe 40 feet away. The par putt to force a playoff hit the hole, but had too much pace and hopped out.

Schenk, playing for the 10th consecutive week so he can take time off when his son is born, closed with a 70.

Spieth was entertaining as ever. He made a 10-foot birdie putt at the par-5 14th to regain a share of the lead with Schenk. But his worst swing of the day

came at the worst time, the 16th hole with water down the right side.

Spieth made a 15-foot bogey putt, only to miss the great birdie chance on the next hole — no one hit it closer than his shot all day — and then his approach to the 18th missed by about a foot of getting to the top shelf for a good look at birdie. He missed a par putt on the 18th that was worth FedEx Cup points and money, signed for a 70 and tied for third with Tommy Fleetwood.

Fleetwood (70) also had a share of the lead on the back nine. His round came undone on the par-5 14th hole when he went for the green in two. He pulled it left and caught a brutal lie in the down-slope of the sand. He could only ad-

vance that in the big bunker, blasted out to about 15 feet and missed the par putt. He never caught up again. No one was paying all that much attention to Moore until the 29-year-old who played at Arkansas started hitting one quality shot after another. He stuffed his approach to 2 feet on No. 12 for a birdie. He effectively won the tournament with one great swing and one great putt. On the par-3 15th, he took aim at the back right pin to 6 feet and made birdie to get within one shot of the lead. And then he holed a 25-foot birdie on No. 16 to join Schenk in the lead.

Moore got up-and-down for par with a long bunker shot on the 17th, and he two-putted from about 70 feet just off the green at



Taylor Moore drives on the second hole during the final round of the Valspar Championship golf tournament Sunday, March 19, 2023, at Innisbrook in Palm Harbor, Fla.

Associated Press

the 18th to finish at 10-under 274. And then he won while warming up on the range for a playoff that never happened. The victory for Moore was worth \$1,458,000 and moved him to No. 9 in

the FedEx Cup standings. Along with a trip he might not have been expecting to the Masters, he gets in the PGA Championship. He moved from No. 103 to just inside the top 50 in the world. □

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Culinary Voyage

Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy Calamari or the mouthwatering creamy Garlic Tarragon Shrimp.

You can also opt for a classic French Onion Soup, a Lobster Bisque or the famously Water's Edge House Wedge, a crisp wedge of fresh romaine lettuce topped with homemade blue cheese dressing, diced tomatoes, chopped bacon, caramelized pecans and blue cheese crumbles, drizzled with balsamic reduction. This followed by the Chef's special of seafood such as Fresh salmon filet seasoned and grilled, topped with lemon cilantro butter and served with homemade mashed potatoes and fresh asparagus, a nice plate of Ahi Tuna or a succulent pasta dish like the Florentina Fettuccine Alfredo. Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of a devourable 22oz. Bone-In "Tomahawk" Rib-Eye, pan seared in garlic infused oil and finished in the oven or our juicy N.Y Strip Loin, seasoned & grilled. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi glace, mushroom sauce, or bacon blue cheese butter. For extra sides the options are delectable. Fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, mashed or baked potatoes, fries or rice and beans. Combine your personal choice with one of the most exclusive wine from the

great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests. To end the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness, the desserts are wild. From a piece of coconut flan, NY cheese cake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

Creating memories

If you are planning a birthday dinner, here you will receive a nice bottle of champagne to take home with you to extend your experience even further whether on the beach or your own private balcony.

Live entertainment

Just about every day of the week, there is a different live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantic mood, or more in a swinging mood, there is absolutely a night especially for you where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails mixed with concoctions. In addition, Water's Edge offers three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm with all premium brands specially priced.

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Whether you join us for breakfast, lunch or dinner, Water's Edge Restaurant & Bar offers a relaxed and inspirational dining experience overlooking the beautiful Eagle Beach with spectacular ocean views. Gather with friends and family for drinks and appetizers or a night of pampering and relaxation.



Thank you to all our guests

From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to Thank all of our guests who showed us so much love and support all throughout the year, and hopefully will continue to do so in the years to come. What we are most grateful for is that we could get back to doing what we love, which is looking after our guests. So, thank you for every dinner, lunch, breakfast, every to-go order, every glass of wine, every birthday, anniversary and date-night that you spent with us this last year. To our new guests, Welcome! We hope you to see you back soon! □

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